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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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DRAFTED BY USOAS:IGTRAGEN
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O 212351Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102623

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, SHUM

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR'S NOTE ON NICARAGUA

1. AMBASSADOR JOSE MARIA MACHIN DELIVERED FOLLOWING NOTE TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDMUNDO VARGAS OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON APRIL 20. MACHIN EXPECTS COMMISSION TO REQUEST PERMISSION OF GON FOR ON-SITE VISIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MACHIN DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE MATTER IN OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL BUT TO SET STAGE FOR FULL SCALE DEBATE ON NICARAGUA AT VIII OASGA.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION SUPPLIED BY THE VENEZUELAN MISSION TO THE OAS. QUOTE DOCTOR ANDRES AGUILAR, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WASHINGTON. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ADDRESS THIS LETTER TO YOU IN ORDER TO REITERATE THE DEEP CONCERN OF VENEZUELA FOR THE DAILY ACCUSATIONS, MADE BY DIFFERENT MEANS, OF THE CONSTANT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA.

ON FEBRUARY 3RD, OF THE CURRENT YEAR AND ON THE OCCASION OF PUBLIC INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THAT COUNTRY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, IN THE NAME OF MY GOVERNMENT I ASKED THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY--UNDER ITS

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PREROGATIVES AND ITS RULES--OF VISITING NICARAGUA IN ORDER TO VERIFY THE ACCUSATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY, MADE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA IN RELATION TO THIS SUBJECT IS APPARENTLY MORE CRITICAL EVERY DAY. AND TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, A VISIT BY THE COMMISSION, THAT YOU SO HONORABLY PRESIDE, IS JUSTIFIED.

THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES OBLIGATES ITS MEMBERS TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRINCIPAL DUTY OF THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS TO PROMOTE THE RESPECT AND DEFENSE OF SUCH RIGHTS.

IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, MY GOVERNMENT THINKS THAT A VISIT OF THE COMMISSION TO NICARAGUA IS NEEDED. YOURS SINCERELY, (SIGNED) JOSE MARIA MACHIN END OF QUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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